

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2588

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T LONDON 08078

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IR

SUBJECT: AFGHAN KING'S VIEWS ON IRAN AND PAKISTAN

1. ON JULY 11 FCO SOUTH ASIA DEPT. HEAD CHALMERS GAVE US (AND VISITING MADRAS CONGEN PALMER) HIGHLIGHTS OF LONG DISCUSSION HE HAD HAD WITH KING ZAHIR AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO KING'S DEPARTURE. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND PAKISTAN.
 2. KING SAID SHAH WAS NICE FELLOW BUT HE TENDED TO SEE WORLD ENTIRELY WITH IRAN AS THE CENTER. SHAH ALWAYS LECTURED KING ON SOVIET THREAT. KING'S STANDARD REPLY IS THAT AFGHANISTAN HAS PECULIAR GEOGRAPHIC POSITION AND IS POOR. AS LONG AS THESE FACTS UNCHANGED, AFGHAN POLICY CANNOT CHANGE. NEVERTHELESS, SHAH KEEPS PREACHING SAME GOSPEL.
 3. KING SAID SHAH IS A PROUD MAN AND PAKISTANIS KNOW IT. THEY PLAY UP MARTIAL IMAGE OF IRANIAN MILITARY IN ORDER TO GET ACCESS TO IRANIAN ARMOURY, IF NOT ALSO SOLDIERY, IN TIME OF CONFLICT. IN TRUTH, KING COMMENTED, IRANIANS ARE NOT MUCH AS FIGHTERS. IF HE WERE
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TO BRING DOWN SAY 3,000 OF HIS PATHANS AGAINST IRANIAN

ARMY SOMETIME, WORLD WOULD BE TREATED TO IMPRESSIVE
VIEW OF IRANIAN RETREAT. IN MEANTIME HE WAS KEEPING AN
EYE ON SITUATION.

4. CHALMERS WAS IMPRESSED BY KING'S CANDIDNESS AND
PERSPICACITY.

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